Scenic, guided hike along Tahoe Rim Trail

A Bird’s Eye View of the Tahoe Rim Trail is how the Sept. 12 trek past Galena Falls to Mt. Rose Meadows is being billed.

The interpretive hike is rated difficult and is 8-10 miles.

The climb is a maximum of 1,865 feet.

Meet at the Mt. Rose trailhead and parking plaza at 7am.

Volunteers needed for Iron Girl Triathlon

The third annual Iron Girl Triathlon is coming to the South Shore on Sept. 16.

Volunteers are needed to support these athletes in their Tahoe challenge. All volunteers receive a logo T-shirt and healthy Iron Girl snack. Go online, select “Lake Tahoe”, and click on “Volunteer”.

Call (530) 545.0698 with any questions.

Owners unaware cat left town with neighbors until call comes from Reno

Devon Hayzlett said her husband thought someone was pulling his leg when he received a message from Washoe County Regional Animal Services that their 2-year-old cat Ponyo had been picked up in Reno on Aug. 27.

The Hayzletts live in the Bay Area; about a four-hour drive from Reno. They had just seen Ponyo the night before and, because Ponyo is the kind of cat that likes to hide away for long periods, were not even aware she was missing, much less in another state.

Regional Animal Services received a call from a security officer at Circus Circus in downtown Reno about 5pm Aug. 27. They were concerned about the well-being of a cat spotted in the valet parking area.

Animal Control Officer Kevin Osborne responded. Because Ponyo was microchipped and had an ID collar with a phone number he was easily able to contact the Hayzletts in Dublin to let them know their cat had been found and was safe, 220 miles from home.

The next morning Devon Hayzlett made the drive over the Sierra to pick up the family cat, still mystified as to how Ponyo made such a long journey in just a day.

The most logical explanation is that Ponyo accidentally and unknowingly hitched a ride with some of the Hayzletts' neighbors and their friends who had gone on a drive to Lake Tahoe and Reno, including a stop at the Circus Circus.

Washoe County Regional Animal Services believes that

microchipping is your pet’s best chance of finding home if it ever becomes lost.

European town creating highways for cyclists

By Eleanor Beardsley, NPR

Every day, one-third of the people of Copenhagen ride their bikes to work or school. Collectively, they cycle more than 750,000 miles daily, enough to make it to the moon and back. And city officials want even more people to commute, and over longer distances.

So a network of 26 new bike routes, dubbed “the cycling superhighway,” is being built to link the surrounding suburbs to Copenhagen.

Lars Gaardhoj, an official with the Copenhagen capital region, says the routes will be straight and direct.

“It will be very fast for people who use their bike,” he says. “This is new because traditionally cycle paths have been placed where there is space for them and the cars didn’t run. So now the bike is going to challenge the car.”

The first highway, to the busy suburb of Albertslund some 10 miles outside the city, was completed in April.

To test it, I got a rental bike and went out for a ride.

One of the first things you learn about these bike lanes is

that you have to move in fast. This is not leisurely biking – this is serious stuff in Copenhagen.

It’s a parallel world of transportation: You’ve got the cars on the roads and the people on their bikes. There are thousands and thousands of people on their bikes here in this city.

Read the whole story

Cyclists gearing up for annual Tour de Tahoe

Bicycling enthusiasts from all over the country will participate in the 10th annual Tour de Tahoe – Bike Big Blue – Ride to Cure Diabetes on Sept. 9.

This fun ride is not a race, but a tour and is fully supported.

This year marks the third year for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation to have this as its national team fundraiser.

Bicyclists will ride two tour options based on their ability level with all rides starting and finishing from the Horizon casino in Stateline. There is a 35-mile ride that includes starting with a boat ride and the 72-mile ride around the whole lake.

Information is available online.

Room available for riders in Tahoe Sierra Century

The Tahoe Sierra Century is a local fund-raiser with all proceeds benefiting the music programs at North Tahoe Middle and High Schools.

The Sept. 22 7am bike ride has three routes – 30-, 60- and 100-miles in length. Expect plenty of scenery and hills.

The event starts and ends in Squaw Valley.

Register online.

Sewer project forces Kings Beach boat launch to close early

The Coon Street boat launch in Kings Beach will be open normal hours through the Labor Day weekend and then will close for the remainder of the season to accommodate the Brook Avenue sewer line replacement project.

Tahoe Vista Recreation Area boat launch will remain open seven days a week from 7am-7pm until weather or lake level forces its closure.

The Brook Avenue project will replace the existing sewer mains

and service laterals in Brook Avenue and in Coon Street between Brook Avenue and Brockway Vista Avenue. A new sewer main, manholes, and service laterals will also be installed in Highway 28 between Coon Street and Bear Street in order to abandon a mid-block sewer main in which the District does not have adequate access. It is necessary to complete this project prior start of construction of the Kings Beach commercial core improvement project.

Time to cleanup beaches on the South Shore

The Great Sierra River Cleanup is a day to clean up beaches and streams in South Lake Tahoe as part of a larger effort throughout the Sierra Nevada and the rest of California.

It is being organized in conjunction with California Coastal Cleanup Day on Sept. 15. The local event if from 9am-noon.

Last year, 158 volunteers from Tahoe communities picked up about 1,600 pounds of trash from beaches and streams all around the South Shore.

Sign up online or drop in the day of the event at Regan Beach.

Angora Lakes – a destination no matter what season it is

By Kathryn Reed

Hiking to Angora Lakes is one of those mixed blessings this time of year. It's the same feeling one can have on Fallen Leaf Lake Road.

The route to get to either lake is crowded with vehicles on what is really a one-lane road, but the end result is a majestic alpine wonder.

Last Sunday four people and two dogs made the 6-mile roundtrip trek to Angora Lakes. It's one of those climbs I never get tired of no matter the season.



Lower Angora Lake is much quieter than the upper lake. Photos/Kathryn Reed

Plus, Angora Road is multipurpose – good for walking, biking, snowshoeing and cross country skiing. And in the fall, the aspens at the start of the route are stunning. And in winter it feels so much more like being in the wilderness, even somewhat desolate.

It got its name from the angora goats that used to graze in

the area.

While we called it a hike, it's hard to do so when the bulk of the walk is on pavement. It had been some time since any of us had been there. And for all I know, it was AJ's first trek there.

It's not the best excursion for dogs because they are not allowed to swim in the upper lake where all the people are – which is the easiest point to reach the water. However, there were no signs at the lower lake saying dogs were not permitted. So, AJ and Buddy were able to get a little swim in and some water there.

But there is no other water along this trail for dogs to cool off in.

Still, what makes this a good people destination are the views and the ability to walk side-by-side. The latter is good for catching up with friends.

After a fairly steady ascent, the road flattens out on Angora Ridge. To the left is the Angora burn area. Tons of underbrush gives the hillside a look of rejuvenation, though the blackened and even ash white remnants of the dead trees from the 2007 fire dominate the landscape.

To the right, though, is the more serene Fallen Leaf Lake, where those who are willing to brave the chilly waters are skiing. And beyond it is Lake Tahoe.

From the resort's parking lot the trail really is a dirt trail for about one-half mile. This allows the experience to be called a hike.

Food may be purchased in the little store, and paddleboards and kayaks may be rented.

For those who want to spend more than a day or afternoon at Angora Lakes, there are nine cabins that are for rent on a

weekly basis. The Hildinger family has been operating the seasonal resort on U.S. Forest Service land since 1917.

Getting there:

From South Lake Tahoe, at the Y go on Lake Tahoe Boulevard toward South Tahoe High School or the burn area. Turn right on Tahoe Mountain Road. Go right at the T intersection. Go left at the next T. The road curves a bit. Go slow. Now until early October the U.S. Forest Service gate on the left is open. Park nearby to get the full “hike”. Drive up the road for a half-mile hike from the parking lot to the resort.

Notes:

• In the winter, don’t park on that road during snow removal.

• It costs $7 to park during the season at the resort.

• Definitely stop long enough for lemonade.

• While people cliff dive, note that submerged rocks are not marked and people have lost their life.

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Volunteers sought to remove milfoil from Baldwin Beach

The League to Save Lake Tahoe invites volunteers to join in the final milfoil removal project of the season at Baldwin Beach on the South Shore on Sept. 16.

Volunteers are needed from 10am to 1pm to help remove barriers and sand bags used to control the invasive water weed. The control effort is a joint project of the League, U.S. Forest Service and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

Volunteers may preregister by contacting Flavia Sordelet at the League office at (530) 541.5388 or by email at events@keeptahoeblue.org.